

Corporation for National and Community Service

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AWARD NOTIFICATION: SENIOR CORPS RSVP EXPANSION GRANTS

Background

Throughout the country, Senior Corps engages the skills, talents, and experience of more than 245,000 Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges through a network of three programs — the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and RSVP. Through Senior Corps, older adults make a real difference through the lives of individuals and as they help increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations, community agencies, faith-based and tribal organizations throughout the United States. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awards grants to these local organizations and public agencies to administer these programs.

RSVP strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by building the infrastructure needed to efficiently and effectively mobilize experienced and skilled volunteers with vital programs and services. One of the largest volunteer efforts in the country, RSVP engages more than 208,000 older adults, retired or not, who use their skills and life experience in volunteer service that helps solve challenges facing communities. RSVP volunteers serve in diverse volunteer roles that may include: intergenerational education; access to care including opioid abuse/prevention; transportation services that support aging in place; housing services and activities in evidence-based programs. Additionally, they help increase the capacity of local organizations by recruiting and managing other volunteers.

In January 2017, Senior Corps opened the 2017 RSVP Expansion Competition with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This national competition was an opportunity for communities—with no current RSVP program—to apply for funds and establish new programs that address national priorities. The response was tremendous. Requests for funding outpaced the available funding amount by more than five times resulting in a highly competitive applicant pool. In accordance with the criteria and process established by the NOFO, 50 organizations were selected to be awarded grants. Together, these grants total a funding amount of \$5,370,177 for a total of 7,766 new RSVP volunteers.

Award Information

Recipient:

Experience Works Headquarters Program
4401 Wilson Blvd
Suite 1100
Arlington, Virginia 22203 – 4196
(703) 682-2502

Program Contact:

Andrea Bridgewater, andrea_bridgewater@experienceworks.org

Award Amount:

\$325,000 per year/3 years (pending annual appropriations)

Target Geography:

Potter, Tioga, Lycoming, and Clinton Counties in Pennsylvania

Program Summary:

Experience Works, a national community based nonprofit organization operating in 13 states, will administer Experience Works Pennsylvania to recruit 325 RSVP volunteers. These volunteers will support activities that address food insecurity including food delivery, distribution, gleaning, food pantry support, and developing and maintaining community gardens. Volunteers support includes after school and summer programs that provide meals to children who otherwise would not have enough to eat, assisting with serving meals as well as packing afterschool snack packs for children to take home. The volunteers' accomplishments will be achieved by collaborating with local community garden coordinators, extension services, Farmers Union, Food Bank Coordinators, local aging services and nutrition educators the local hospitals. Additionally, volunteers will support capacity-building efforts to secure items needed to stuff kids' backpacks.